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The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

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Travellers relieved to be back in Canada

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

County residents Carolyn Langdon and Marty Scheller were relieved to be back in Canada as they arrived at Pearson International Airport on Sunday, March 22, part of the wave of more than a million Canadians and permanent residents returning last week.

"We could let out a big sigh of relief and just relax," Langdon said.

Their Air Canada flight landed on the tarmac with a nearly empty cabin with about 65 passengers from Canada and the U.S. spaced out in the nine seats per row, she said.

"It was the best flight we've ever had because we had so much elbow room," she said.

The retired couple spent two days traveling from the island of Crete, Greece, to get to their Minden Hills home after a trip that started in Indonesia in January. The journey home took two days, including driving their rental car to the Crete airport for an hour flight to Athens and then a commuter flight to Munich, Germany and finally home to Toronto.

see A 'NEW' page 2



Some alone time

A solitary pedestrian takes dogs for a walk on Minden's Riverwalk on Tuesday, March 24, one way of getting some exercise while maintaining a physical distance from others. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford have been making regular requests for people to practice social distancing. Those who have returned from a trip out of the country are instructed to self-isolate for 14 days. /DARREN LUM Staff

MH declares state of emergency over COVID-19

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills declared a state of emergency last week amid the ongoing

COVID-19 pandemic.

"Certainly, with the [provincial] declaration at 8:30 yesterday morning, this went to a whole other level," Mayor Brent Devolin told the Times on Wednesday, March 18, following a declaration of a state of emergency in Ontario by Premier Doug Ford the day

before.

The municipal declaration puts into action the township's emergency management and continuity of operations plans (created in 2016 and publicly available on the township's website).

see DEVOLIN page 3

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COVID-19

Coronavirus

A 'new normal' on the horizon

from page 1

The return trip almost didn't happen. When they learned Turkish Airlines grounded all flights two days before their scheduled flight home, they were left scrambling for another option. Langdon phoned the airline's head office in Istanbul.

"I could get no information out of them. The only thing they could say was it was an operational decision ... so that was it. After all that finagling, we changed our flight twice and an untold amount of hours online and on the phone and after all that two days before we were just so close to getting out, boom, gone. And they couldn't offer any alternative," she said.

The couple had registered with the Government of Canada's Registration of Canadians Abroad service, but received their first message on March 23 when they arrived home.

The message referenced mobility restrictions in Greece and various details about emergency contacts. Langdon wished more information came from the government long before they learned through others what was happening.

The couple wasn't entirely sure what was happening to the rest of Greece while they were in the rural areas. They were unable to read news reports or decipher the Greek being spoken in newscasts.

It was becoming apparent people were feeling the anxiety with rising cases of coronavirus globally. By March 15, they were told by a hotelier that the country was going to force the majority of hotels to close by March 22.

Langdon is happy things worked out and they're home, but she was disappointed there wasn't a refund for flight changes with Sky Express airlines to get to Athens and that Turkish Airlines was not able to offer a refund over the phone (one could be given in person at the Toronto office) due to a technical issue. From all the rebooking and plan changes, they believe they will likely be out of pocket by \$1,500 if there isn't a refund.

For the past 11 years, the couple has travelled the world, going on extended trips of a few months.

Nothing like this has ever happened to them before.

Langdon wasn't sure about travel next year, but hopes there will be a vaccine developed and research to learn about the origins of the outbreak with greater government investment in health care.

"The world has changed. It really has," she said. "We have to be hopeful and life goes



An image of a quiet coastal town in Crete, Greece where Minden Hills residents Carolyn Langdon and husband Marty Scheller spent several anxious days before taking a flight home this past weekend. Like most travellers around the world, travel has been disrupted by the recent events related to the coronavirus pandemic. Submitted by Carolyn Langdon

on, but this really is life-changing and unprecedented and countries have to pay more attention to their health-care system and more resources have to be freed up for health-care systems. We don't know what will happen this time next year."

The couple is now in self-isolation and will be assisted by Langdon's brother Ray, who already helped his 83-year-old mother Marian when she returned from Portugal before airport closures and flight cancellations.

If you come back from travelling, the message from public health officials and political leaders is clear: self-isolate.

Highlands resident Ashlee Casey, who went to Florida to visit a friend is doing her civic duty. She returned early last week and is at her home in isolation for two weeks. Before coming home, she sent her young adult daughter to live with her grandparents.

"Just because I was happy to stay isolated in the sun does not mean I am being reckless. The choice was made for me to come home and isolate here, so please don't think I don't take this seriously," she wrote.

Casey is thankful for the help she has received during these circumstances that will keep her and her husband home spring cleaning.

"Thank God we have family members close by that she [my daughter] left to stay with before we got home. I read social media throughout the day and there are lots of concerns and condemnation of travellers being out and about, but we are truly following rules and are blessed to have family dropping needs off at our front door," she wrote.

Registered nurse and Highlands resident Christina Allore, who is currently employed, but not working in the hospital for Haliburton Highlands Health Services due to a back in-

jury, warns people to take the threat of the coronavirus seriously.

A registered nurse since 2003, Allore worked during the SARS outbreak, but said the incidences were not as high. She continues to receive up-to-date information from the hospital and said this situation is much more frightening.

"Because of SARS though, we all have the FRI (Febrile Respiratory Illness) assessment to follow, and I feel that because of that assessment tool that is used upon first contact with a patient in our hospitals our health care is in a much better position to manage this in that regard. People are screened for fever and cough, and if they fail they are to be isolated," she wrote.

She is upset about people ignoring the social distancing recommendations, which is part of the effort to give more time to scientists to research the virus and develop a vaccine.

There are personal concerns for her family with her middle daughter, who has asthma, Celiac disease and has a history of pneumonia. Allore has been having open discussions with her family to ensure the health of her daughter and is working to maintain her composure in these stressful times.

"Maybe I am going to look like an idiot two weeks from now, and people can say that I overreacted ... I am so OK with that! I would love to be wrong; not usually, but this once, I would happily admit it!" she wrote.

Former MP Barry Devolin, who runs a travel guide company, returned home after being away for a week leading a group exploring Kruger National Park in South Africa starting March 14 and returning this past Sunday. He is currently in quarantine at a friend's cottage in the Highlands.

Before the weekend there weren't any cases in Ethiopia and few in South Africa and the group felt safe where they were. Devolin said he felt anxiety heading out of South Africa to Ethiopia and home to Toronto with Ethiopia Airlines. Early flights weren't available.

"Coming home on the weekend we felt it was like running the gauntlet to get back to Canada. I was much more nervous on Saturday morning heading to the airport in Johannesburg and flying home through Addis Ababa. Planes were jammed full. Every seat was full. And then back to Toronto and through that airport and out. It all kind of worked out OK, but we kept waiting. The airlines might cancel the flights. They might close the airports. It was unclear what might happen next," he said.

He said there isn't a direct flight from

South Africa to Toronto so the Ethiopia leg was the most ideal to avoid going through hot zones for coronavirus such as Chicago or New York.

Most of the people he took the flight with were Canadians. There was a nervous feeling among the crowded plane, he said.

There have been trips in his life where there have been challenges, but he's never come home where he thought the same feeling would be waiting for him.

"You never really think home has changed. Home will be the same. In this case, not only were they anxious about the trip. Not only were we anxious about going through airports and getting on planes with a bunch of other people, but we were also nervous about what we would find when we got here," he said.

Devolin was the Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock from 2004 to 2015 and has insight into how governments operate.

Some people might think when a state of emergency is declared it indicates the "severity of a situation," but mostly it enables a government to have access to tools for action and to money.

While coming through Pearson International Airport, he was surprised there wasn't more screening like he received upon landing in South Africa where public health officials came aboard the plane and conducted checks, followed by further screening in the airport, which included thermal testing. He said he believes South Africa does this because health care is not as robust as Canada's.

"All I can tell you is that in my experience there the one flight I came on everyone I talked to were shocked there was very little screening going on compared to what [they] had seen both in Ethiopia and in South Africa," he said.

He appreciates the effect this pandemic has on mobilizing people around the world to resolving the crisis. Under these circumstances, he believes the usual timelines of a vaccine being developed and approved in a year-and-a-half will be expedited.

He said South Korea has shown how quickly things can go. A simplified test for the coronavirus was developed within a week.

He's familiar with life in South Korea from living and working there for two years following his political career. Devolin said countries like Taiwan and South Korea know how to handle outbreaks.

In particular, South Korea's preparedness comes from dealing with MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) back in 2015.

"They're not smarter than us. They have just dealt with it once already and put a system in place. I think Canada will be better prepared the next time this happens, ... it would appear in the United States where the health-care system is much more fragmented than it is even in Canada, is not well suited to this type of a crisis," he said.

He said during a crisis you want a robust health-care system to operate like an army where there is centralized command and clear lines of authority.

He is optimistic things will return to a "new normal" within several months due to whatever scientific breakthrough is made.

"The fear obviously is what's the cost between now and then both economically as well as in terms of lives," he said.



Please note that due to the COVID-19 crisis the Minden Times office will be closed to the public until further notice. We are still publishing our paper.

If you would like to get in touch with a reporter please contact:
Chad Ingram at chad@haliburtonpress.com

If you would like to place an ad or make a payment please contact
Debbie Comer at debbie@haliburtonpress.com

If you would like to speak to someone please call 705-286-1288.
Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.

The Times
MINDEN, ONTARIO

COVID-19

Coronavirus

Devolin urges social distancing

from page 1

“This basically allows us to work hand-in-glove with the province,” Devolin said.

A special meeting of Minden Hills council took place March 19, where council delegated certain authorities of council to the township’s emergency management group, which consists of some members of council, the township’s chief administrative officer and a cross-section of department heads. All regular council meetings have been suspended until further notice.

Devolin said the threat posed by the virus should not be taken lightly.

“The notion that it’s not happening in our community is a fallacy,” he said. “It’s coming here. It is going to affect us.”

Devolin strongly urged residents to practice social distancing, regular hand-washing and other such measures.

“The public participation is probably the most significant element,” he said. “If we want to protect our community, our family, our neighbours, we need to take responsibility

at the individual level.”

The Township of Minden Hills has closed all of its facilities, including its administration office, to the public. While landfills remain open with reduced levels of service, residents are asked not to attend unless absolutely necessary and encouraged to store as much waste and recycling as possible at home for the time being.

The township’s March tax due date has been extended until April 24. The level of staff service has been reduced significantly for the time being, while administrative call-answering services remain available at 705-286-1260, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Residents can also email admin@mindenhills.ca for information. Residents are asked not to call various departments, or submit questions through the Contact Us form on the municipal website.

The County of Haliburton, Municipality of Dysart et al and Municipality of Highlands East also declared states of emergency last week.

Health unit reports region’s first COVID-19 related death

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The jurisdiction served by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit experienced its first COVID-19-related death during the weekend, with a man in his 80s passing away at Lindsay’s Ross Memorial Hospital on March 22.

According to a press release from the health unit, the man was admitted to the hospital on March 19 exhibiting high fever and “influenza-like illness,” and tested positive for the COVID-19 virus on March 21. Pneumonia and COVID-19 were listed as his causes of death.

“We offer our sincere condolences to this man’s family ...” Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the HKPR District Health Unit, said in the release. “Unfortunately, this man’s tragic passing highlights that we now have community transmission of COVID-19 in our area.”

Noseworthy emphasized anyone feeling ill or returning to the country from abroad is to

self-isolate for a period of two weeks and in general, everyone is encouraged to practice physical distancing, keeping a minimum distance of two metres from one another. It is recommended that people limit time out making essential purchases, and avoid public settings.

The province’s online self-assessment tool is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

At press time, there were 12 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus within the HKPR district, but none within Haliburton County. Six of those cases were men and women in their 60s and 70s who’d recently returned from travel abroad, four from within Northumberland County and two from the City of Kawartha Lakes. Those individuals were all self-isolating.

Three residents of a Bobcaygeon nursing home are confirmed to have the virus, and are being kept in isolation.

On March 24, a woman in her 50s in Northumberland and a woman in her 40s in Kawartha Lakes were confirmed to have the virus and were self-isolating.

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TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL COTW, COUNCIL, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, BOARDS, TASKFORCE AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Snowmobile Bridge Seasonal Removal

The snowmobile bridge on the Gull River in downtown Minden has been removed for the season.



RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Drink pouches, chip bags, straws and disposable cutlery are not recyclable. Please place these items in your garbage. For a full list of items that can be recycled, please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill.

BUILDING INSPECTORS WANTED!

The Construction industry is booming in Minden Hills, and in order to keep up with demand we are looking for qualified individuals to join our team. If you enjoy both inside and outside work, being part of a dynamic team of professionals, and have your Building Code certifications in General Legal/Process and House or Small Buildings and/or Onsite Sewage Systems, we would like to hear from you.

As a member of CUPE Local 4286, your hours of work will consist of 35/week, with an hourly rate of pay of \$25.69, currently under review.

Benefits include: a comprehensive health, dental, insurance, sick and pension plan; as well as training and development opportunities for professional growth.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for more information.

NOTICE OF FACILITY CLOSURES

ALL Township facilities are now CLOSED to the public.

All LANDFILLS remain open, see below for any change in service levels.
Please Call 705-286-1260

or Email admin@mindenhills.ca for assistance.

Due to reduced staffing levels, calls and emails will be returned, if deemed necessary, on a priority basis.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca to view the Media Release and for a list of township closures and alternative methods of service being offered.

We thank the public for their understanding as we work toward keeping our community safe & healthy.

FIRE SERVICES:

Services will continue to operate at full capacity with appropriate precautions in place; and we would like to remind everyone to call 911 for all emergency situations.

BUILDING/BY-LAW AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Interaction with staff is limited to appointment only;

Application forms pertaining to these departments can be found online; Meetings related to planning matters with legislated timelines will occur until or unless other legislative requirements are determined by the Province of Ontario; Staff will continue to field building inspection requests; Septic inspections were suspended December 2019, and will continue to be suspended until further notice; Appropriate distancing and hygiene protocols will be required by staff and all participants; as determined by the Township; and the public is asked to consider the urgency of their request or application.

PARKS, RECREATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

These facilities are closed, and all Township events and programs have been cancelled or suspended until further notice.

Public Washrooms

All public washrooms and portable toilets (port-a-potties) are closed for public use.

Public Wi-Fi Hotspots

Will remain available at the following locations:

Administration Building – #7 Milne Street - Parking Lot and Minden Hills Library
– #174 Bobcaygeon Road – Parking Lot

PUBLIC WORKS

Landfills:

Until further notice, Landfill services will be reduced in an attempt to limit interaction and handling of cash and receipts between attendants and the public; The following service reductions will be in effect at all Minden Hills Waste Sites:

- Only bagged household waste and recycling will be accepted.
- Maximum bags accepted will remain at 3; however, any additional bags will not be permitted.
- Residents shall not engage in casual conversation with site attendants.
- The Township will not be accepting loose waste, construction and demolition material, commercial waste, tires, scrap metal, electronics, textiles or any other non-household bagged waste.
- Tipping fees will be waived for Cardboard until April 30, 2020.

The Township asks that residents avoid attending waste sites until absolutely necessary. Please hold your waste and recycling as long as possible and utilize the 3 bag maximum limit – refer to our website under “Landfill Operations” to assist you in this; Please ensure you check for up-to-date information prior to attending a landfill site.

Roads:

Service levels will be maintained in accordance with minimum maintenance standards.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

Cash and debit payments have been suspended;

Please refer to the following table for all other payment methods:

Payment Method	Taxes	Water & Sewer	Other Misc. Billings
Cash or Debit	Not Permitted at this Time	Not Permitted at this Time	Not Permitted at this Time
On-Line & Telephone Banking	✓	✓	Not Available
Cheque (by Mail or Township Secure Drop Box)	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Authorized Payment	✓	Not Available unless previously set-up	Not Available
Financial Institution	✓	✓	Not Available

- Interest and penalties for non-payment of other accounts (see above table) will also be suspended until April 24, 2020 as well.
- While due dates have been extended, we encourage account holders to utilize the payment methods noted above, and to submit payments as soon as reasonably possible.
- The secure (locked) Drop Box (as noted in the above table) is labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp, please look for the sign with the red arrow in the window - Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box; Payment of all Vendor Accounts (Accounts Payable):
- Will continue according to normal processes;
- Due to the office closure, invoices must be mailed or placed in the Township Drop Box – see Drop Box details above.
- Please ensure that invoices include your current mailing address, as the ability to pick-up your cheque at any Township facility has been suspended.
- Cheques will be mailed. The Township does not have the ability to EFT payments at this time, and courier services will not be utilized

THE DUE DATE FOR FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE 2020 INTERIM TAX BILLING HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO APRIL 24, 2020, WITHOUT PENALTY OR INTEREST.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

Minden business under fire for COVID-19 post

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

A Minden business has come under substantial public criticism after a COVID-19-related post was made to its Facebook page, calling the disease a hoax and encouraging social gathering at its Bobcaygeon Road location.

A post that appears to have since been removed from Yummy Mummy Emporium & Apothecary's Facebook page read, "Yummy Mummy Emporium & Apothecary proudly announces: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic hoax we are cancelling nothing. You can

come here with a fever and cough all you want. We know that germs don't cause disease. You are welcome to visit us for March break while fools cancel everything according to government propaganda."

The Times has not been able to reach the business's owner, Amandha Vollmer, for comment. The paper has received numerous messages of concern regarding the post, and Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin told the paper that municipal and provincial authorities have been alerted.

Minden Hills, the County of Haliburton and the Province of Ontario are all under states of emergency amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and Devolin and County Warden

Liz Danielsen have been urging residents to practice self-isolation, social distancing and regular hand-washing to mitigate spread of the virus.

As of March 24, there remained no confirmed cases within the county, but there have been 12 cases reported in the jurisdiction of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, including the death of an elderly man in Lindsay on March 22.

A March 22 post on the business's Facebook page reads, "It looks like the brain-washed sheep who take no time to educate themselves are attacking me, personally and my page. It is a sad day for humanity. What is dangerous are these people, obeying the very

ones that line them up for slaughter. I have given all the resources to the science and the proper history, but these people CANNOT THINK, they simply react and attack. I feel so sad for them and for us all . . ."

The page contains other posts denying the existence of pathogenic viruses.

Vollmer has received a cease and desist order from The College of Naturopaths of Ontario. According to the unauthorized practitioner register on the organization's website, Vollmer was issued the order for "advertising, practising, and/or otherwise holding out as a naturopath," on Feb. 7, and the college received the order signed back on Feb. 26.

AH reduces landfill operations, suspends council

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands landfills are operating under reduced capacity and meetings of the township's council have been suspended amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a March 19 meeting, a number of restrictions were put in place at the township's waste disposal sites designed to protect landfill attendants, members of the public and staff. Until further notice, the

township will not be accepting: construction materials, concrete or shingles (unless you have an existing account); scrap metal; bulky items (anything that doesn't fit in a garbage can); mattresses; furniture; appliances; brush, leaves, yard waste; or boats.

Until further notice, up to one cubic metre of household waste and blue box recycling materials will be accepted. The re-use centres at Maple Lake, Dorset and Oxtongue Lake are closed.

"Managing these materials requires contact between attendants and site users, and to keep everyone safe, and lower the risk of

someone passing along the virus, we want to keep contact between site users and attendants at a minimum," reads a release from the township.

Regular meetings of Algonquin Highlands council have also been suspended until further notice, in addition to previously cancelled committee meetings and all township programming. All Algonquin Highlands facilities, including its administration office along North Shore Road, remained closed to the public.

Interactions with staff are limited to telephone and email only. Online application forms for building, bylaw and planning matters can be found online, however, the township is requesting that residents consider the urgency of their requests at this time.

The Stanhope branch of the Haliburton County Library is closed to the public, as is the book depot at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

The township's trails remain open, and public washrooms at the Dorset parkette, Elvin Johnson Park and Stanhope courts and playing field remain open to the public, "although these facilities are regularly checked and cleaned, users are asked to undertake appropriate hygiene protocols," a release from

the township reads.

The terminal building at the Stanhope Airport is closed, while aviation operations continue and fuel remains available.

The due date for the first instalment of 2020 taxes has been pushed back until April 24. No cash or debit payments are being accepted during this time, and residents are asked to use online or telephone banking, mail cheques, or deposit cheques in the secure drop box located on the front porch of the administration office. No cash is to be deposited the box.

"We know decisions that affect your daily routine are frustrating and we appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation as we move through this uncertain time," Mayor Carol Moffatt wrote in a social media post. "We may have a long road ahead and we're working to ensure our decisions about municipal services have the long game in mind."

Moffatt is encouraging residents to stay at home.

The township is developing a COVID-19 response section on its website, and residents with questions can call the administration office at 705-489-2379.

PURPLE DAY

MARCH 26

Taking action for epilepsy

LET'S PAINT THE HIGHLANDS PURPLE

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Gas prices fall

Gas prices around Haliburton County have dropped as the market price of oil continues to fall in part due to global travel restrictions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Pictured here are the gas stations in Minden on Hwy. 35. /DARREN LUM Staff

COVID-19

Coronavirus

Feds, province pass emergency legislation in wake of COVID-19

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The federal and provincial governments are springing into action to help Canadians and Ontarians navigate their way through the COVID-19 crisis.

At the federal level, last week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an aid package for families and business that will be worth up to \$82 billion, including \$27 billion in direct funding.

"The announcement that was made by the Prime Minister will probably be the first in a series of economic announcements to help individuals and businesses get through this crisis," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale told the *Times*.

Among those measures is an emergency support benefit, which will support workers, including self-employed Canadians, who are not eligible for EI if they are facing unemployment. An emergency care benefit will provide up to \$900 biweekly for workers taking care of a sick family member, or who have to stay home to look after children. An EI sickness benefit waives the one-week waiting period for individuals in quarantine, as well as the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits. The Canada Child Benefit payments amounts will be increased by \$300 per child per year beginning in May. The income tax deadline has been extended to June 1, and the deadline for anyone who owes money to the government has also been extended. An additional GST payment and the possibility of mortgage payment deferrals of up to six months were also part of the announcement.

The House of Commons was convening Tuesday for a

streamlined sitting with skeleton staff where it was expected the measures would be supported with unanimous consent.

"You can do anything you want with unanimous consent," Schmale said, explaining it will allow the usual parliamentary procedure to be suspended and for the bills to be passed quickly, so the government can start getting money to Canadians. "It's a very collegial approach. Partisanship is out the door right now."

Schmale said he'd like to see enhanced measures other than just loans for businesses that have seen their income shrivel up virtually overnight.

"There have been businesses that have seen their revenues drop to almost zero in a number of days," he said.

He encouraged county residents to check on vulnerable neighbours.

"The county has a great sense of community," Schmale said. "We are seeing neighbours and friends start to check on each other."

The MP also urged residents to stay calm, stressing Canada's supply chains remain intact, and that there will be food on the shelves.

"There's no need to panic shop, there's no need to hoard," Schmale said, also encouraging residents to undertake practices of self-isolation, avoiding non-essential travel, and social distancing.

"If we all keep calm and do our responsible actions, we will get through this."

At the provincial level, on March 19 MPPs sat for an emergency session in Queen's Park, passing two pieces of legislation – The Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies) and The Municipal Emergency Act, 2020. The former provides job-protected leave for any Ontarians in self-isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, as well as those who need to be away from work

to care for children who are out of daycare, or care for relatives who are sick. "These measures are retroactive to Jan. 25, 2020, the date the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in Ontario," reads a press release from the province. "The legislation will also make it clear employees cannot be required to show sick notes."

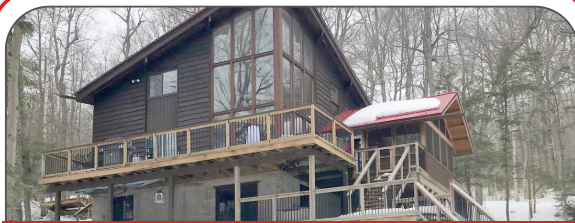
The Municipal Emergency Act 2020 ensures the delivery of goods can happen at any time of day, irrespective of municipal noise bylaws. It also allows municipal councils to hold virtual meetings in emergency circumstances.

"The legislation also gives municipalities the ability to fully conduct council, local board and committee meetings electronically when faced with local and province-wide emergencies, empowering the government's municipal partners to respond quickly when in-person meetings cannot be held," the release reads.

The two pieces of legislation were passed with unanimous consent by just 26 MPPs, with the number of MPPs kept intentionally small in order to practice social distancing.

"Like you, I believe that mothers, fathers, daughters and sons should be able to care for their loved ones with confidence their job is secure during the COVID-19 outbreak," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario's Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott wrote in a blog post. "We should also have faith that our grocery stores will be fully stocked, eliminating the panic buying and hoarding of goods in our community."

"It is important that we continue to look after one another in this time of emergency," Scott wrote. "No one should lose their job while putting their health and well-being first and no one should go hungry or without resources during this unprecedented outbreak."



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IN OTHER WORDS

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The whole world is sick

IT'S BEEN a wild and surreal week, as the scope and magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic becomes clearer and clearer to Canadians, instructions from governments for people to remain home become stricter, and social activity slows to nearly nil. I've been trying to see it through the eyes of my daughter and figure out what must be going on in her mind.

As some readers will be aware, my wife and I have two daughters, the eldest of whom, Evangeline, is just less than a month shy of her third birthday. For a not-quite-three-year-old, Evangeline has a robust social life. Two days a week she attends Wee Care, or "school," as we refer to it. She goes to music class, to dance class, to children's programming at the library, and Early Years activities at JDH. She makes weekly trips to the grocery store with her mom, visits her grandparents in Lindsay and Richmond Hill regularly, and has play dates with friends and cousins. "Where are we going today?" is typically one of the first things out of her mouth in the morning.

More than a week ago now, all of that suddenly stopped. Evangeline doesn't go anywhere, and she's of course very aware of it. How do you explain to a toddler what's going on? How do you explain to a not-quite-three-year-old why she can't do all of

the things she's accustomed to doing?

"Because the whole world is sick," she tells me, something I'm going to guess she heard from her mother, and not Abigail, her not-quite-one-year-old sister. And while that's obviously not literally the case, it makes it easy for her to understand. And given what we're learning about the rate at which asymptomatic people can spread the virus, thinking of ourselves all as sick, and acting like it, is probably a pretty good idea.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Reporter

The big outing of Evangeline's days now is a walk down our rural road to see the horses in a nearby field. She watches "the news man" – I've learned this is her name for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – talk to the country each day. We have more living room jam sessions and have stocked up on art and craft supplies.

While any toddler is obviously going to get stir-crazy in our current circumstances, at least toddlers are easily distractible. A little bit of candy can go a long way. Same with rationed Christmas gifts that are again brand new. And because they are incapable of fathoming the pandemic, toddlers are still able to be in the moment, and content to be there most of the time.

I find myself trying to adopt parts of Evangeline's mindset, as I long for a "normal" that now seems like a luxury.

Kwarky



Kim Wank

Self-Isolation Insight

Self-isolation and the angler

AS I WRITE this I am, like most of you, unsure as to how long we will be asked to self-isolate for the COVID-19 crisis. What I am reasonably certain of, however, is that this will have some sort of impact on my fishing season. The first indication was that my fishing buddies started cancelling on me earlier than usual.

Fishing, as we all know, is an activity where camaraderie provides at least half the fun.

Don't get me wrong, fishing alone is enjoyable too. But all that changes when you catch a really big fish. Then, you wish that your buddy was around to see it.

The plus side, for me, is that this does not occur that often.

That got me thinking that I should try to find the bright side – meaning, other positive things that might come out of fishing alone.

Maybe they'll apply to you too.

First and perhaps most importantly, my reputation as an angler will be given much needed time to heal. There's a lot to heal and I'm really not sure how much damage can be undone in the allotted time, but I do know that this will probably mean that no one will witness me waste five minutes whooping it up and yelling "I hooked a tank!" while fighting a neutrally buoyant stick. And that's a pretty good start.

Also, when you fish alone, if you can figure out the right amount of camera blur, all you need is a Ken doll and the right background and you can make any fish look like a provincial record.

There are many other advantages to socially distant fishing too. For instance, you

can attach worms to your flies, if other fly anglers are far enough away. You can also tell another fisherman who is keeping his distance that you caught all those fish on a fly pattern that doesn't exist – or, better still, one that is fish repellent. No one will see you when you are 10 feet up a tree trying to retrieve your lure either. And you can launch a boat without the plug in and not have the story circulate through town. Similarly, no one will know when you have been skunked and no one will crowd you when you find a spot where the fishing is actually good.

On the down side, you won't be able to pretend to forget your wallet when you hit the drive-thru on the way there and back. Nor will you be able to "borrow" a fly or lure. Worst of all, you will have no one to follow when you are determining if "this is a good place to cross the river."

And I will certainly miss all these things.

The good news is, eventually, life will get back to normal and, if you drive to the launch separately, you can still phone your buddy when he is ahead of you in the drive-thru to tell him you forgot your wallet. And, when you get to the lake, if you both keep to your respective end of a 17-foot boat or canoe, you can still maintain the required separation.

The point is, like everything else, angling is going to be a little different for a while and we are going to have to adapt. This will mean we will all have to enact subtle little changes to make life, without a fishing partner at your side, a little more bearable.

This afternoon, for example, I sewed a fishing vest and waders for my Ken doll.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Pandemics need leadership

SHORTAGES ARE a serious worry during this coronavirus pandemic. Many places report not having enough medical equipment, hospital capacity, or even masks, gloves and gowns for doctors and nurses as the number of infections soar.

Such shortages allow fast-spreading viruses to overwhelm medical care facilities, allowing more people to die.

The greatest shortage in this crisis is political leadership. The world lacks the truly effective leadership that creates trust and inspires citizens to be strong, hopeful partners in overcoming the virus and its accompanying problems.

Some leaders have said the pandemic was unexpected, coming suddenly out of the blue. That is pure nonsense. Fifteen years ago, the SARS Commission investigating that terrifying outbreak warned the world it must ready itself for another.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Here's what *Spring of Fear*, the Commission's final report, said:

SARS "was a wake-up call and it holds the lessons we must learn, to protect ourselves against future similar outbreaks and against the global influenza pandemic predicted by so many scientists."

Also, in late 2005 the book *Killer Flu: The world on the brink of a pandemic*, quoted various experts warning that another pandemic is overdue. (I was the author but this is not a sales pitch because the book is out of print.)

So here we are in the midst of a pandemic, predicted by so many experts over the years. And, no government, despite the warnings, was well prepared for it. All, Canada included, took too long to recognize the seriousness of the virus and to take precautions.

The lack of political leadership has been stunning.

Look south where self-proclaimed "wartime president" Donald Trump, a sociopath as shallow and murky as a mud puddle, initially called the virus a hoax and has endangered lives with his falsehoods and unwillingness to listen to anyone smarter than himself.

Now he tweets that physical distancing guidelines might be relaxed to help the economy. Early this week U.S. infections had reached 40,000 people.

Save the economy, let the folks die!

Look east to Britain where Prime Minister Boris Johnson, another egomaniac, initially followed a "herd immunity" policy that would allow hundreds of thousands to get sick and build an acquired immunity that eventually would leave the virus nowhere to grow.

At the start of this week Britain had roughly 6,000 confirmed cases, increasing by 600 to 1,000 a day. The number of deaths was approaching 400.

Canada had roughly 1,400 confirmed cases at the start of the week, and federal leadership has been sort of OK. At least our numbers are not out of control yet, but less talk and more direct action would make us all feel better.

One leadership surprise, at least to me, has been Ontario Premier Doug Ford. He has been calm, but straightforward and firm, taking direct action and calling out businesses and individuals ignoring social distancing warnings.

Good leadership is rooted in integrity, which means being fair, reliable and willing to listen to and accept other opinions. Leaders cannot have integrity, and the qualities that accompany it, unless they understand and admit their own limitations.

Excellent leaders build strong teams of people who have competencies to supplement the leader's limitations.

Overall, the world lacks the strong, effective leadership needed to tackle burgeoning problems in these times of rapid change. The coronavirus will disappear eventually, only to be replaced by another new virus outbreak, and almost certainly an influenza pandemic.

Then there are the difficulties predicted to befall us because of pollution and climate change.

The world has proven time and again that it can overcome huge problems when it has excellent leadership – Churchillian type leadership.

We need to change how we seek out and choose potential excellent leaders. We have to stop selecting them through an outdated political party system. Toss aside political party loyalties and start choosing people who can achieve what the people really need, not what a party believes will win the next election.

In trench warfare it was the people in the trenches who won the battles, not the star-studded geniuses giving orders from afar.

So it will be with the coronavirus pandemic. The folks in the trenches – the doctors, nurses, medical technicians and other health-care workers – can win this war.

We are fortunate to have them and should never forget to thank them.

Keep moving!

HOW ARE you managing in these current times of social distancing and self-isolation? Thankfully we have the internet and all its magical corners that we can get lost in. I've seen so many online fitness classes pop up recently. It makes total sense. I've been doing online personal training with clients for more than three years now. My clients love it and I love it. I do appreciate that for some, looking at a screen is not their thing, even during these crazy times.

By now I'm sure many people are feeling the effects of inactivity. So if getting out for a walk or run isn't an option for you here's a seven-day workout plan to keep you moving. Cut it out (if the paper comes to your house) or print it out. Leave it in a place that you will see it often – like the fridge door! There's no equipment needed – just you and a minimum amount of square footage. Music is good. Blast it if you can.

Here you go (only do these exercises if they are safe for you to do):

Start every workout with a five-minute warm-up consisting of walking/marching/jogging on the spot or dancing.

- Day 1: Push-ups (at the wall, from your knees, or toes) - 5 to 20 reps / Squats - 5 to 20 reps / Plank from elbows and knees or toes - hold for 5 to 10 seconds and repeat 3 to 10 times / Superman (alternating arms and legs) - 10 to 20 reps.

- Day 2: Jog on the spot - 1 minute / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more / Jumping Jacks - 1 minute / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more. Repeat this sequence 2 or more times.

- Day 3: Push-ups (at the wall, from your knees, or toes) - 5 to 20 reps / Stationary Lunges - 5 to 20 reps on each side / Straight Arm Plank from knees or toes - hold for 5 to 10 seconds and repeat 3 to 10 times / Superman (alternating arms

and legs) - 10 to 20 reps.

- Day 4: High Knees - 1 minute / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more / Ski Jumper - 1 minute / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more. Repeat this sequence 2 or more times.

- Day 5: Push-ups (at the wall, from your knees, or toes) - 5 to 20 reps / Side Lunges - 5 to 20 reps on each side / Side Plank (both sides) from knees or toes - hold for 5 to 10 seconds and repeat 3 to 10 times / Superman (alternating arms and legs) - 10 to 20 reps.

- Day 6: Burpees (why not?) - 10 to 30 seconds / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more / Jumping Jacks - 1 minute / rest (walking on the spot) for 20 seconds or more. Repeat this sequence 2 or more times.

- Day 7: Active rest. Put on music and dance to your heart's content, or play – with your children or your dog or your cat if it doesn't give you the stink eye. Mobility exercises are great to do as well.

If you're not sure how to do the exercises there are demonstration videos online. Always start slowly and don't do anything you're not comfortable doing. This plan is only a guideline. Make changes that suit you. The idea is to keep you moving during these extenuating circumstances.

Always cool down with some gentle stretching and/or mobility exercises. I have a list of stretches and mobility exercises in a PDF format. Please feel free to contact me at laurie@thepointforfitness.com and I'll send them to you.

Now, stop staring at a screen and move. Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Stay home, safe and healthy

DORSET NEWS

Lee Ross
burgesslt@me.com

With the announcement of all non-essential businesses being ordered to shut down for a minimum of 14 days it seems like things aren't going to be looking up any time soon. At this time all we can do is stay home, safe and healthy, and hope that this insanity doesn't last much longer.

The Dorset Recreation Centre has set up a computer for children to use while their parents are using the wifi or other facilities. The computer is for children only and is located in the newly renovated office across from the desk. There is also a small station set up with books to keep children busy when visiting the Rec Centre. Unfortunately the building is closed for the time being but be sure to check it out once they re-open.

Many local businesses are operating under shortened hours and are asking that you not enter if you've been out of the country and should be in quarantine. Please take a moment to read any signage before entering buildings and follow the rules. If we all abide by the rules that have been set in place we can get through this quicker.

If you're looking for ways to keep yourself and your children occupied, consider reading: overdrive.com allows you to borrow and download books using your library card, and best of all, it's free! There are thousands of books in every genre for everyone to enjoy. Reading is also a great way to keep your mind active while school is out.

Happy birthday to Debbie Guidi, Matthew Hughes, Zach Lock, Rick Nash, Peter Dickson and Cole Greenaway. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@me.com.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

HCDC, chamber offering assistance to businesses

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many Haliburton County businesses have minimized their hours of operation and a number of them, particularly eateries, have shut down completely for the time being.

The Haliburton County Development Corporation has developed a loan program for business owners who've been affected by the outbreak of the virus, and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is opening up resources that would normally be available only to its members to the county's entire business community.

HCDC's COVID-19 Loan Program will offer loans with a zero per cent interest rate to businesses and non-profit organizations that have been financially affected by the outbreak of the virus. Loans of up to \$25,000 will be offered with amortization periods ranging from one to four years, and loan applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Larger loans may also be considered where a business demonstrates substantial need. Applicants will be required to provide recent financial statements, as well as a cash flow projection for the next six months.

Application and cash flow projection forms are available online at www.haliburtoncdc.ca/loans/covid-19.html.

HCDC's office is currently closed to the public, with its staff working remotely.

HCDC can be reached at 705-457-3555. Executive director Patti Tallman can be reached at ptallman@haliburtoncdc.ca; loans officer Kelly Jones at kjones@haliburtoncdc.ca; loans and office administrator Cory Abbs at cabbs@haliburtoncdc.ca; and program and operations co-ordinator Autumn Wilson at awilson@haliburtoncdc.ca.

"Like all Canadians, we are closely monitoring official announcements and expect to respond as this fluid situation continues to evolve," reads a statement from HCDC. "Concurrently, we are also proactively working with our many partners and colleagues to collaborate on responses to the changing needs of our clients. Please watch our website and social media feeds for ongoing updates. The entire HCDC team remains committed to serving our clients and the overall community during this challenging time and encourage all to be, and stay, well. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us."

Current loan clients are also encouraged to contact HCDC to see what options may be available for them, and are also eligible to apply to the COVID-19 Loan Program.

Additionally, Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses contains information about helping businesses keep their workers; flexibility for businesses filing taxes; ensuring businesses have access to credit; and supporting financial market liquidity. The plan can be found at www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#business.

Resources for Canadian Businesses: COVID-19, another federal resource, includes information about supporting employees; business supports; business travel and events; as well as for businesses dealing in international markets. It can be located at www.canada.ca/en/services/business/maintaingrowthimprovebusiness/resources-for-canadian-businesses.html.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is making moves to support not just its member businesses, but all businesses in the community.

"Many of our retail and restaurant businesses have experienced huge reductions in business with COVID-19, have been forced to change the way they do business, and/or close," says chamber executive director Jenn Locke. "Dealing with a high level of uncertainty, they have many things on their minds including their employees, their community, their families, and the season to come."

The chamber has been pushing its #BuyCloseBy campaign, a partnership with the county, which encourages the support of local businesses. The chamber has provided a list of tips residents can use to support local businesses during this time, including making purchases online; buying gift cards for future use; ordering takeout; paying with plastic instead of cash; tipping extra; and buying items now, while picking them up later.

"We have been communicating the latest in updates to our membership, leveraging our contacts at the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce and submitting our

member needs to them," Locke says.

A virtual town hall has been arranged with Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale, scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Those wishing to partake are asked to register at haliburtonchamber.com, or through the chamber's social media channels. For the time being, the chamber is making all of its members-only resources, updates and communications available to everyone.

"The board of directors understands that this is a pivotal time for local small businesses across the county, and we want to support each and every one of them," Locke says.

Many of the chamber's business members have implemented social distancing in workplaces, while others have their employees working from home, or have closed show spaces to the public.

The Haliburton Foodland has teamed up with the Rotary Club to deliver groceries to vulnerable residents.

"All of our local grocers have stepped up to the plate increasing sanitation protocols, implementing seniors-only hours, and keeping their employees working," Locke says. "Food banks say that the demand is high and are encouraging people to purchase grocery store gift certificates to help meet the need."

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce resource page is available at occ.ca/covid-19-updates.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce resource page is available at www.chamber.ca/resources/pandemic-preparedness.



Laurie Scott, MPP

Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock



Tips for Social Distancing



At least 2 meters apart



- Stay at home as much as possible
- If you have to go out, stay at least 2 meters away from others
- Order essential products online, if possible
- Avoid crowded places and gatherings
- Call family from home
- Cook at home or order take-out or delivery

Constituency Office:

Tele: 705-324-6654

Email: laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org

Tips for returning from abroad



- Stay home and self-isolate for 14 days, even if you have no symptoms
- Monitor for symptoms like fever, coughing and shortness of breath
- Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly and often
- Try and stay at least 2 meters away from others
- Keep surfaces clean and disinfected
- Take the self assessment at Ontario.ca/coronavirus to learn if you need to seek care

**DO YOUR PART TO KEEP YOUR
COMMUNITY AND LOVED
ONES SAFE.**

Moose FM radio host broadcasts from his basement

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

After he turns on the light to head down to his basement, Moose FM morning host Rick Lowes jokes to listeners at home tuning in to his Basement Broadcasts this week that he's been receiving some production notes — from his wife, especially — on the videos he's sharing on the radio's social media pages.

"Hold the camera down, people don't want to see the ceiling, they want to see the basement," he says as he walks through his house, repeating her advice.

Lowes has been self-isolating for more than a week, running the station's morning show from his basement, because of becoming sick after the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

"What happened was I was in contact with some people who had just returned from abroad, and had come down with a little bit of a cold," said Lowes. "At that same time, my employer had sent out an email suggesting exactly that, if you come in contact with people abroad and you're not feeling well, please stay home, kind of thing. So I contacted my boss, and he checked with [human resources], and they said yeah, stay home."

The station already uses technology, when on-air hosts are doing live remotes (broadcasting from outside of the studio at events) in which recordings can be sent digitally to the radio station and placed in the roll on the computer.

"As much as I love being at home, the thought of being able to work from home, it just didn't seem feasible to do that," said Lowes. He suggested instead that because he



Moose FM radio host Rick Lowes has been broadcasting over the air from his basement in Halls Lake while in self-isolation due to a cold after exposure to travellers during the COVID-19 outbreak. /Submitted photo

has to get to the station at 4:30 a.m. when others aren't there that it might be safe for him to do so, leaving before others arrived. His boss noted though that other staff come in to the station, as do other people, and so Lowes being there in the morning wasn't safe for others.

"Then once I thought about it, I thought, hey, I'm going to be at home, I can sleep in a little later in the morning. My wife, she's

off for the next three weeks too, so I thought, OK."

Sleeping in for Lowes still means waking up earlier than most, but usually he starts his day at 3 a.m.

"Now I wake up at 20 after five, roll out of bed, head down to the basement and start broadcasting, pretty much," he said. "I have a cup of coffee, I'm here in the luxury of my own home, that part of it is nice. I don't know

if I'll be feeling that in a week. Right now, I'm kind of enjoying it, I guess."

He admits that as nice as it is to stay home, it also feels limited.

"In theory, you always think, oh it'd be great if I could just stay home for the next couple of weeks, I could do this, I could do that, catch up on my reading, watch some TV, see some movies, that kind of thing," he said. "But, it'll be day seven tomorrow that I've been at home, staying inside, and yeah, I'm finding it a little bit, it's getting tedious. I think because I know I can't go out or I'm not supposed to go out, it makes it more confining. Probably if I could go out I'd be fine with staying here at home."

Having the freedom of some space in a rural area has been helpful.

"I live on a lake, so it's not like some folks where you might be in an apartment in Toronto or something like that, where you're really confined, and basically I don't really have any neighbours so I can go for a walk outside with the dog without seeing anybody, so it's not so, so bad, but still, it is getting a little... the walls are closing in a little bit."

His wife, Nancy, is self-isolating too, and his daughter in Toronto has been checking in, making sure her parents stay in, rather than out and about. Lowes said he's been watching the news, with what he called "surreal" images of rush hour moving at a normal speed with no gridlock on Toronto's Hwy 401, and of canals in Venice that are clear of pollution after pandemic quarantines have kept visitors home.

Thankfully for Lowes, his cold is almost gone and he said he feels nearly 100 per cent.

"It's not easy, but it could be way, way worse," he said.

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2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy.

- Only visit an assessment centre if you have been referred by a health care professional.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Monitor for symptoms after travel.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Be prepared, but avoid panic stocking.
- Caring for those who are ill? Take precautions.
- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Order your prescription medication.
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette in transit.

If you have symptoms, take the self-assessment at ontario.ca/coronavirus. Or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or your public health unit.

Resident requests restrictions on tethering of dogs

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

One resident is requesting that Minden Hills council amend the township’s kennel bylaw to include tighter restrictions on tethering dogs outside, following the removal of several dogs from a County Road 121 property by Provincial Animal Welfare Services, or PAWS, last month.

Shanna Dryburgh made the request of councillors in a delegation during their March 12 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

Eleven of 14 dogs had been removed from the property as of late February, and Dryburgh told councillors that eventually all 14 were taken under the auspices of the Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes.

“I don’t want to go into details of what I witnessed on the property, but I will say that it was excruciating waiting three weeks for the dogs to be removed,” she said. “I couldn’t help but feel that the absence of specific bylaws contributed to the prolonged stress for the dogs. I was shocked to learn that there was no law against storing a dog on vacant land. There was no dwelling, no hydro, no water source, no humans . . . There is no justification for leaving a dog chained up, alone, outdoors, vulnerable and at-risk.”

Dryburgh urged council to add a number of regulations to the township’s kennel bylaw, which she noted has not been updated since 2009. First among them, she encouraged council to add the tethering of dogs on vacant land as a prohibited use in all planning zones.

“If this simple bylaw were in place, it could have armed the bylaw officer and the animal welfare inspector with a straightforward and enforceable way to have protected those dogs,” she said.

Dryburgh also noted that currently under Minden Hills’ bylaws, up to nine dogs can be kept on a property with rural zoning. She encouraged the township to keep pace with other municipalities and drop that limit to four.

“Anything over four would require a kennel licence,” Dryburgh said, adding this meant that the property would then be required to comply with all the legal requirements of a kennel.

She also noted the absence of requirements around the tethering of dogs, and recommended that regulations be put in place. In some municipalities, there is a time limit on the amount of time a dog can be chained up, for example, while others outlaw tethering as a means of confinement completely.

“Minden needs to keep in step with other rural municipalities,” Dryburgh said.

Councillors thanked her for her presentation, and requested

a staff report come back regarding the issue.

“In regards to a bylaw, I’m interested in a report by staff,” said Mayor Brent Devolin, adding he’d like that to include a comparison of best practices in surrounding municipalities, and the incorporation of the most recent provincial legislation. All meetings of Minden Hills council have since been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Detour on Cty Rd 121

A section of County Road 121 a few kilometres north of Kinmount was closed for culvert repair after the culvert was damaged on March 18. Traffic is being diverted to Hwy. 35 or County Road 503. The repair is expected to be completed by March 31. /KAREN LONDON Staff




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Elementary teachers reach agreement with province

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and the province reached a tentative contract deal on March 20 for teachers and education workers after months of negotiations and job action.

Details about the contract agreement have not been announced. Issues important to ETFO were protecting the kindergarten program, teacher compensation, smaller class sizes, and resources for students with special needs.

"This has been a very prolonged and difficult bargaining process," said ETFO president Sam Hammond in a press release issued that day. "We are very grateful for the support and unwavering solidarity of our members, and the public who have continued to stand up for public education and the supports that our students and educators need now and in the future."

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, also issued a statement March 20.

"This tentative ETFO agreement builds further momentum for deals and progress that students deserve, following last week's tentative agreement signed with the Ontario

English Catholic Teachers' Association," he said. "We remain focused on landing further deals, to provide stability and certainty to students, parents, and educators."

The province has not yet come to an agreement with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation or the union representing French-language elementary and high school teachers in Ontario.

ETFO represents 83,000 elementary public school teachers, occasional teachers and education professionals across the province. OSSTF has more than 60,000 members across Ontario, and OSSTF District 15 includes public high school teachers, occasional teachers, and about two dozen professional support personnel including social workers, speech language pathologists, and psychometrists.

Rotating one-day strikes involving the county's high school, alternate education centre, and elementary schools have taken place over the past several months prior to March Break. Issues identified by the OSSTF as important in their negotiations include class sizes, mandatory e-learning, and teacher compensation. For updates or more information, visit tldsbc.ca/labour-updates.

Fort-building fun

School might be closed, but posts on the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Facebook page have aimed to engage the staff and student community with shared information about hygiene and safety, crafts and activi-

ties to do at home, and "at home" challenges in the form of virtual spirit days. On March 18, the challenge was extended to students to share a photo of forts built inside their house or outside in the yard. Here are the results:



Alexis Feero made a fort outside before celebrating that hard work with some s'mores. /Submitted



Huxlee, Wren and Tyke Campbell made a dining room chair fort. / Submitted



Hannah Johnson made a cozy fort out of blankets. /Submitted

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		1	9	8				
		8			2		6	
			5	9	8			
	6	2						
1		9			6		8	
						7		6
9		7						3
					7			

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Answers on page 14



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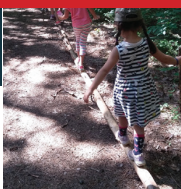
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5	3	8	7	1	2	4	6	9
4	7	3	5	9	8	6	2	1
8	6	2	1	4	3	9	7	5
1	5	9	2	7	6	3	8	4
2	1	5	8	3	9	7	4	6
9	4	7	6	2	1	8	5	3
3	8	6	4	5	7	1	9	2

Restaurants adapt to serve during pandemic

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

Local restaurant owners are struggling to keep doors open day-by-day, while dining rooms are closed across the province after a provincial state of emergency was declared March 17 in an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The declaration, made by Ontario Premier Doug Ford, bans gatherings of more than 50 people and closed bars and restaurants to service outside of takeout food and delivery.

The Dominion Hotel in downtown Minden announced that afternoon that it would be closed until further notice.

“We are heavy-hearted in closing the Dominion Hotel,” owner Shawn Chamberlin told the *Times*. “The Dominion has been in the centre of Minden for over 155 years. It has provided food and shelter through sub zero weather conditions and storms, floods that shut down the town and more calamity. The ‘D’ has been the place where folks come to be reassured there still is life. It is their connection to humanity. Where kind words are exchanged. Where a friend can be found to talk with. And a place where people can find a little happiness. When the doors are locked this bit of life is removed from the community.”

Chamberlin said the decision to completely close the establishment was based on concern for staff.

“Staying open for take-out only would mean some staff would have to work,” he said. “However, this would mean we could jeopardize their chances of applying and qualifying for government assistance programs. We wanted our staff to have as much chance as possible to receive help. Naturally our other thought was to eliminate any chances of staff exposure to ... germs. As employers we have few tools to protect our staff. This is an important one.”

Chamberlin said there is worry, but also faith and hope that people will pull together throughout the pandemic.

“But we still are worried,” he said. “Timing is our enemy and the costs to small business build as the days go on. At some point these costs will hit a tipping point. And, like most businesses in the Highlands, we suffer through the winter as our sales decline. Most businesses feel that it is a good month when they break even in the winter. So our cash reserves are not in good shape. Like all other businesses I’m sure, we are worried about our investment.”

In response to how the government is handling the crisis, Chamberlin said, “I would not want to have my final report card at the beginning of my semester. I think we can only accurately measure government’s response after this crisis is all done.”

“I think that there are many in the government who are sincere and are working within the limits of their office to help Canadians,” he said. “We have to wait and see how their programs roll out. Hopefully the near future will have meaningful announcements. But time is of the essence. Our bills keep coming. Heat, water, insurance bills don’t realize there is a crisis.”

Across the river at Molly’s Bistro Bakery, staff have largely been laid off, but the business remains open promoting take-out meals, frozen meals and soup that have always been an option.

“I think I’ll stay open until they tell me I have to close,” said McNerney, “because I think we have it well-managed here with how we’re handling everything and sanitizing, and keeping everyone at their distance.”

McNerney said she hopes to also offer delivery service in the town of Minden for those unable to come to the Bobcaygeon Road location, or for those practicing physical distancing.

While Boshkung Brewing Co. retail spots remain open for take-out, Rhubarb announced its closure on March 17.

“We really, really felt that it wasn’t financially responsible to stay open,” said Terri Mathews-Carl. “We make everything made to order from scratch and that’s hard to prep for in advance not knowing how many would order take-out. We also feel it is safer for our staff and the public to be closed.”

She appreciated that employment insurance measures were put in place by the government to aid those in need, but noted, “it’s still going to be very hard financially for everyone to manage during this time.”



McKeck’s Tap & Grill in Haliburton was not open to diners, but was offering takeout on Saturday, March 21. On March 17, the province of Ontario ordered that bars and restaurants only prepare take-out food and delivery, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus./ JENN WATT Staff

Despite a time that is stressful for everyone, Mathews-Carl was staying positive.

“We are in good spirits and hopeful,” she said. “People are kind and it’s nice to see people offering helping hands.”

McKeck’s Tap & Grill in Haliburton has stayed open, with chef Aaron Walker working alongside his wife, Melissa, to serve customers take-out food after all other staff was laid off.

“We are distressed that there is no communication of expected outcomes regarding closures of hospitality since it is impossible to plan without information, henceforth, we plan for the worst,” he said. “We expect long-term closure as the situation deteriorates. We would gladly self-isolate but reality is that we have to pay rent, hydro, propane, insurance, etc. We have maintained benefits for our staff as they are laid off. We hope for positive outcomes in the upcoming months, however, no communication exists to guide us so we are preparing for our worst-case scenario.”

Andy Oh at Maple Avenue Tap and Grill in Haliburton said he was stressed over the situation as he continually wondered whether he should stay open or close.

“It is a constant concern,” he told restaurant spokesperson Kathryn Kidd.

Oh was keeping “Maple Ave,” as it’s known colloquially, open with the help of his wife and daughter. A total of 13 people have been laid off from the restaurant.

“It is a time of stress for everyone,” he said. “Everyone handles stress differently. It is a personality ‘thing’ and everyone has their own way. Some handle it better than others.”

Oh said he wanted everyone to come together as a community.

“Check on your neighbours,” he said. “we are not a community that is all about ‘me’ and ‘I,’ we are a community that is about ‘we’ and ‘us.’ We need to work and move forward through this as one community, as a whole, and not hoarding toilet paper.”

Oh hoped to stay open for the community, but made the decision on the weekend to close.

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Local summer camp requires a full time seasonal maintenance assistant. Job duties include some cleaning/ carpentry and trash removal. Valid drivers license required. Interested parties may call **705-754-2374**. Leave a detailed message. Salary based on experience.

CLEANING PERSON NEEDED Cleaning-Greeting Woman sought for Saturdays in the summer. Private cottage on Parsons Road. We are looking for a mature/ experienced/ reliable person. Pay is beyond excellent. Non-contact with rental guests built-in to the schedule. We correspond with guests via cell phone and written instructions. Please respond with references at sandyshores@primus.ca



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- Candidates must be over 18 years old and should hold a valid G2 driver's license
- Candidates must be physically fit for outdoor work
- Knowledge of power equipment an asset

If you require accommodation during the interviewing process, please advise

Contact us by email
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Fax 705-489-1887
Or drop in at
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Please email your resume & cover letter
by April 5th to Jacquie Barry at:
jacque.barry@homehardware.ca

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HOUSING MANAGER

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) operates two non-profit housing projects in the Village of Haliburton, Ontario

JOB SUMMARY

The Housing Manager reports directly to the HCHC Board of Directors and oversees all day-to-day operations at Parklane Apartments and Echo Hills Apartments in compliance with federal, provincial and municipal legislation, ensuring that all operations are conducted in timely and cost-effective ways. The Manager maintains positive relationships with tenants, staff, vendors and the Board of Directors.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge of the Housing Services Act and regulations, Residential Tenancies Act and regulations, social housing programs, other legislation pertinent to operating residential properties
- At least 5 years of supervisory experience
- Strong communication, interpersonal, multitasking and conflict resolution skills
- Compassion and empathy skills suitable for a social housing environment
- Effective budgeting, analytical, administrative and organizational skills
- Proficient computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, Outlook, HM Worx
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Possesses a valid driver's licence and vehicle with insurance
- The successful candidate will be required to obtain a clean Vulnerable Sector Check prior to being confirmed for the position

This is a full-time salaried position with an expectation that while the work can be generally completed Monday to Friday at 40 hours a week, there will be times after hours and weekend work are expected without payment of additional compensation. The start day is negotiable the salary is competitive and commensurate with experience, benefits are included. References will be requested at the interview. Any questions email Glenn Scott at contact information is below.

Resume plus cover letter must be submitted electronically no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 to:

*Mr. Glenn Scott, President
Haliburton Community Housing Corporation
Email address: president@haliburtonhousing.com*

HCHC thanks all applicants. Only those chosen to be interviewed will be contacted. If contacted for an interview, please inform if you require accommodation in the interview process.

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Township of Algonquin Highlands
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.Employment Opportunity
2 SEASONAL OPERATORS
In the Stanhope Yard
(Approximately 6 months)

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is looking for 2 Seasonal Operators with heavy equipment experience to assist with all aspects of municipal road maintenance and construction. The ideal candidate will be physically fit as manual labour is an important part of the job.

A detailed job description is available at www.algonquinhighlands.ca or upon request.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020** to:

Adam Thorn, Operations Manager
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands ON K0M 1J1
Email: athorn@algonquinhighlands.ca

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Tender Call
for
Grounds Keeping Contract

Canada Post is inviting tenders for Grounds Keeping at the Minden Post Office.

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Quotes must be received by April 3, 2020 by 5:00 pm

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April 18, 2020
Gooderham Centre

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Donna "Isabelle" Heaven
 March 29, 1936 ~ March 14, 2020

In her 84th year, Isabelle passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family and friends at her own home, on her own time, to the sweet sounds of "I Can Only Imagine" on Mirror Lake, Minden, Ontario.

Pre-deceased by her loving husband Don in 2011 and her sister Beth in 2015. She is survived by her sister Laurie Ritchie, sister-in-law Pat Woodcroft, brother-in-law Earl Brears and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, her dog Amy and her ducks, whom she loved tremendously.

Isabelle was born in Acton, Ontario, to a Tanner and a Nurse. She thrived to learn and graduated as a teacher. She taught both in London, England and Dundas, Ontario. She met and later married Don Heaven in 1966 and moved to the Highlands in 1980. She was an avid participant of the Horseshoe Lake Property Association and the local Horticultural Society. She was a devout lover of the Theater and Football, specifically the Hamilton Tiger Cats, hosting many Grey Cup parties... "Oskee WeeWee!!"

Isabelle lived an incredible life of love, laughter, strength and acceptance. She was never one to judge but one who would listen and advise. She taught, tutored and loved us all, for that we are forever grateful.

At Isabelle's request, there will be no funeral service but a private Celebration of Life in the spring. Memorial donations can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.



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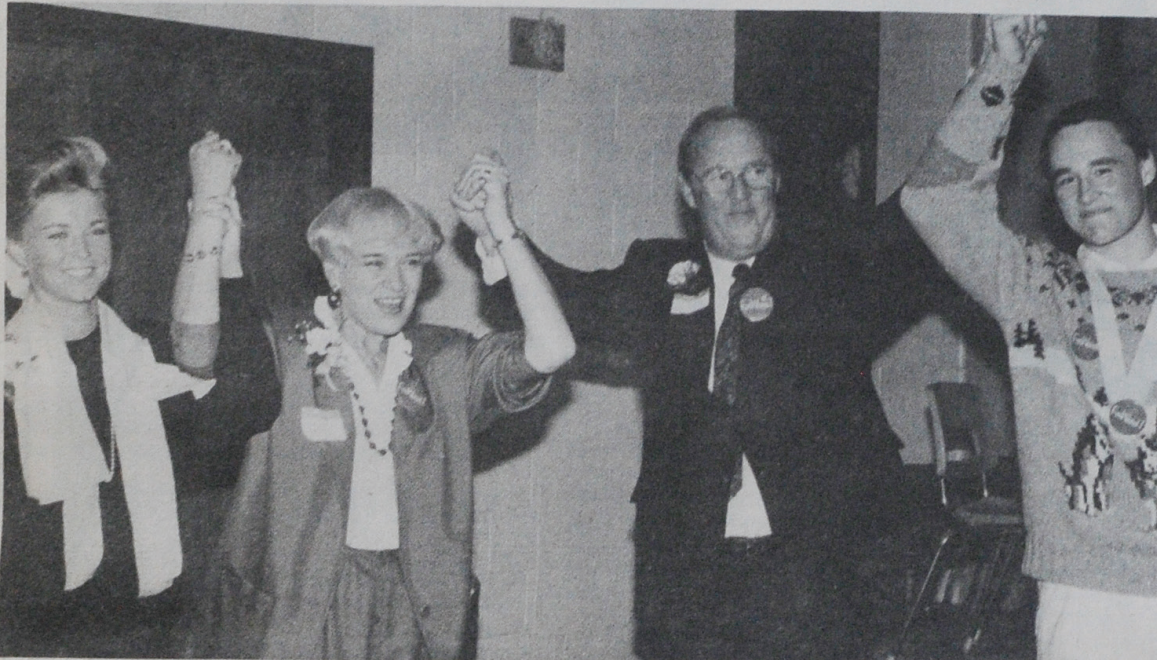
The Times

Minden

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Number 1255

Wednesday, March 11, 1987



Joined by his family, successful P.C. candidate Art Ward raises his hands in victory and salute at the P.C. Convention Saturday in Lindsay. The Haliburton resort owner won the nomination by 76 votes on the second ballot.

Ward wins P.C. race

"The first thing I'm going to do is call Mr. Eakins and tell him I'm in the race."

With those words to reporters, Progressive Conservative Art Ward set off on the campaign trail of a provincial election that has yet to be called.

John Eakins, a member of the Liberal Party and Minister of Tourism and Recreation, currently represents the riding of Victoria-Haliburton in the provincial legislature.

Ward defeated hopefuls Valmay Barkay and Anne Wilson by a solid majority at the riding's Progressive Conservative Association nominating convention held Saturday at I.E. Weldon Secondary School in Lindsay.

Another priority, Ward said after the second ballot had been announced, will be to sit down with his opponents and get them on to his team.

After that he'll be hard at work putting together a strong party organization in the riding, he said. But Ward denied that it would be difficult building support among constituents; "The Conservatives have always been strong in this riding," he said.

(more on page 3)

A total of 479 Conservative Association members registered to vote at the convention.

Ward won the first ballot with 215 votes, beating Barkay, who garnered 137 and Wilson who had 117.

Again, in the second ballot, Ward came out on top with 265 votes to Barkay's 189.

The three groups of placard waving supporters who filled the chairs in the high school gymnasium were more or less equal in number. It was the undecided voters, a group of about 150, filling the stands at the back, who cast the deciding ballots.

The atmosphere at the convention was lively and all three candidates spoke well.

A common note sounded was the need to listen to the people. Both Barkay and Wilson spoke of the importance of grass roots representation; Ward criticized the present government for responding to the people's problems with press releases instead of action.

Barkey, who was the first to speak, arrived at the stage in a carriage pulled by

(more on page 10)

Veterans ponder local Legion

The possibility of establishing a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Minden will be considered at a special meeting called for next Wednesday, March 18. Talk of starting a new Legion in this community has been circulating for a number of weeks, however this is the first official announcement that a serious effort is underway.

According to Mabel Brannigan, one of those involved in advising the organizers, for a new branch to receive its charter, there must be at least 15 veterans not associated with other branches, willing to request the formation of a new branch. She said that the group now includes more than 15 with strong support from existing Legion

members.

The organizers have called a meeting for next Wednesday to explain the costs and challenges of starting a new branch and the difficulties which may be encountered. According to Brannigan, there appears to be strong interest in the community for the creation of a Minden Legion with individuals offering fund

raising and support ideas to get the facility off the ground.

She said the meeting of Wednesday will explore these possibilities with the members. "We want to be sure the members want and can proceed with this," she commented.

Once the branch is

Minden hosts curling championships

Some of the top curlers in southern Ontario will be playing in Minden next week as this community hosts the Junior Mixed and Intermediate Men's Provincial Championships.

Eight teams in each division will be involved in the four days of curling. Each team will play seven games in the round robin event. The teams with the highest point total at the end of the play-off will claim the championship.

"This is not a large money or big prize event," Mike Maybee one of the local organizers, explained. "These curlers will be playing for the honour of being named the best in their division in southern Ontario."

The two championships are sponsored by the Ontario Curling Association, with assistance from Seagram's Distillery. The organization represents curlers associated with member clubs in the region south of the French River. Over the past few months, a series of local, regional and zone competitions have been held to determine the top eight teams in each division. It is these curlers who will be competing at the Minden Curling

Club.

The Junior mixed division includes curlers 20 years of age and less while the intermediate division is for men over 40 years of age. This is the final level of competition for these curling enthusiasts and the rink which captures top honours will carry the title of OCA champions for the coming year.

The teams will be playing ten end competition games, starting with the first match Wednesday afternoon. Two games are scheduled for each team for each of the three days, culminating with the final contest Saturday evening. Since both competitions will be run on a total point basis, there will be no "final" or play-off match scheduled, unless two teams are tied at the end of regular competition. In such an instance, the two teams will meet Sunday for a tie-breaking game.

Three members of the Minden Curling Club executive, Mike Maybee, Gareth Kellett and Sally Bonner, along with a special committee including other members of the local curling fraternity have been working on this project for almost a year. In addition to ensuring the facilities here meet the specifications of the

OCA, the committee, with various volunteers, has undertaken a number of tasks to ensure the smooth operation of the four-day event and the enjoyment of the curlers and spectators.

Mr. Kellett is the OCA representative at the Minden club and will act as umpire for the competition. He has chaired the committee overseeing the championship.

A spokesman for the committee described the event as a "chance of a lifetime for enthusiasts to see quality curling on their home ground." It was noted that the event should put Minden on the curling map, both for competitors and spectators from out of town.

Of special interest to avid curlers will be the fact that Paul Savage who played vice on the Ed Werenich Briar rink several years ago will be in attendance Wednesday. As an official of the OCA, Savage will conduct the team meetings prior to the start of play. At these meetings, the rinks are advised on the rules under which the play will be conducted.

Admission throughout the four days of curling is free for spectators. Meals and refreshments will be available at the club during the day.

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he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

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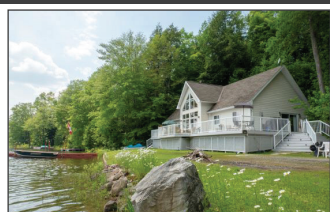
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& Andy Mosher**
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Karen Nimigon**
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- On our premier 5 lake chain, Boat into Haliburton



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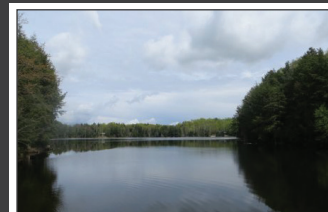
NEW LISTING



Christine Sharp*
286-2138 x59

Soyers Lake \$474,900

- Quiet bay, 344' waterfront
- 4 season home
- 2 acres



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

West Lake \$265,300

- 356' of frontage with on West Lake & with gentle path to the waterfront
- Utilities at the lot line, driveway installed on a year round municipally maintained road



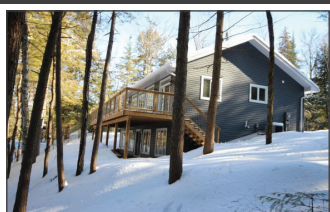
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Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32

Minden Executive Home \$549,000

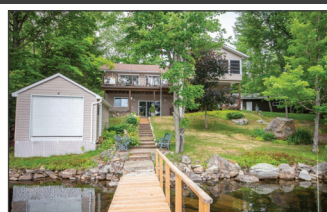
- Bungalow w/finished walk-out lower level
- 4 Bdrms, 2.5 baths, Cathedral Ceilings
- On Beaver Creek, 2 acres.
- Det'd Dbl Garage & Det'd Insulated, Heated Shop



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 25

Cameron Lake \$750,000

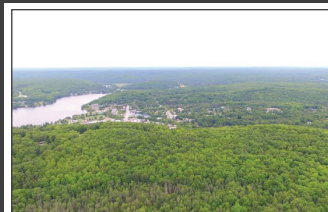
- 1-year old construction, shows like a model
- 3 bedroom, 2 baths, plus room to grow
- relax at this quiet motor restricted lake



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Haliburton Lake \$899,000

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- 1280 Sq Ft garage/shop with high ceilings



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

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